

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 HA-05 SES-02 IO-13 SMS-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 /094 W
-----123451 181820Z /46

R 171415Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 7639
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6026

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, GW, YO
SUBJ: FRG-YUGOSLAV REQUESTS FOR EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS

REF: (A) BONN 14703, (B) BONN 14597, (C) BONN 14384

1. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY HERE, AUGUST 11 TALKS BETWEEN FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND SFRY FOREIGN SECRETARY VRHOVEC WERE USEFUL AND POSITIVE. VRHOVEC LEFT A "VERY FAVORABLE" IMPRESSION AND WAS QUITE "FAIR" AND REASONABLE WITH REGARD TO THE BILANDZIC EXTRADITION CASE. VRHOVEC REPORTEDLY NOW HAS A MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGAL PROCESSES INVOLVED AND OF THE FACT THAT FRG REALLY HAS LITTLE ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO LET THEM RUN THEIR COURSE. FRG EMBOFF BELIEVES YUGOSLAVS RECOGNIZE THAT THIS COULD TAKE SOME TIME BUT AS A RESULT OF THE VRHOVEC TRIP ARE ON THE WHOLE REASSURED BY THE RECENT DECISION OF THE COLOGNE COURT THAT BILANDZIC IS EXTRADITABLE AND HOPEFUL THAT BILANDZIC EVENTUALLY WILL BE RETURNED TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR TRIAL.

2. DESPITE SOME FRG SUCCESS IN "DEPOLITICIZING" THE BILANDZIC CASE (FOR THE MOST PART), FRG EMBOFF SAYS VRHOVEC MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE EXTRADITION QUESTION COULD NOT BE
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SEPARATED FROM OVERALL YUGOSLAV-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS AND THAT YUGOSLAV ACTION ON FRG REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF FOUR GERMAN TERRORISTS NOW BEING HELD IN YUGOSLAVIA COULD NOT REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED UNTIL THE BILANDZIC MATTER IS FAVORABLY RESOLVED. ON THIS SCORE, FRG EMBASSY WAS AT ONE POINT CONCERNED THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD NOT LEGALLY BE ABLE TO DETAIN THE GERMAN TERRORISTS BEYOND MID-JULY DUE TO THE

RELATIVELY MINOR NATURE OF THE CHARGES (ILLEGAL ENTRY AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS). NOW, HOWEVER, THE JULY DATE HAS PASSED, THE GERMAN TERRORISTS ARE STILL IN JAIL, AND FRG EMBASSY BELIEVES YUGOSLAVS WILL FIND WAYS (LEGAL OR OTHERWISE) TO DETAIN THE FOUR TERRORISTS AS LONG AS NECESSARY.

3. ON BALANCE, FRG EMBASSY TENDS TO THINK THAT BILANDZIC WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXTRADITED. FIRST, HOWEVER, HE WILL MOST LIKELY APPEAL THE COLOGNE COURT'S EXTRADITION FINDING TO THE WEST GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND THIS PROCESS COULD TAKE A YEAR. BEYOND THAT, THERE IS EVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT BILANDZIC WILL TRY TO TAKE HIS CASE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE IS BEING PERSECUTED FOR HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS AND COULD NOT RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL IN YUGOSLAVIA.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GENSCHER-VRHOVEC TALKS AND YUGOSLAVS' KNOWN SENSITIVITIES IN THIS AREA, WE HAVE OUR DOUBTS ABOUT JUST HOW LONG THE YUGOSLAVS WILL BE PATIENT ABOUT LONG DELAYS IN EXTRADITING BILANDZIC (OR OTHER ANTI-YUGOSLAV EMIGRE TERRORISTS). THE PRESS, WHILE NOTING THE "POSITIVE" OUTCOME OF THE TALKS AND VRHOVEC'S ASSESSMENT THAT WEST GERMAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS ARE DEVELOPING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, ALSO POINTEDLY NOTED GOY DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MANNER AND SPEED WITH WHICH EMIGRE CASES HAVE BEEN HANDLED, INDICATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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SATISFIED WITH HALF-MEASURES AND "DOUBLE STANDARDS" IN COMBATING ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM IN WEST GERMANY, AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOY LOOKS TO THE FRG AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF EXTRADITION REQUESTS. THESE INCLUDE, OF COURSE, IN ADDITION TO BILANDZIC, OTHER CROATIAN EMIGRES THE YUGOSLAVS ARE SEEKING AND WHOSE CASES ARE NOT APPARENTLY AS LIKELY TO RESULT IN EVENTUAL EXTRADITION AS THAT OF BILANDZIC.
WORTZEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTRADITION, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELGRA06026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780338-0736
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780851/aaaabpyb.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01037061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 14703, 78 BONN 14597, 78 BONN 14384
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1702451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG-YUGOSLAV REQUESTS FOR EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS
TAGS: PINS, GE, YO, (BILANDZIC, STEPAN)
To: BONN STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01037061-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014